174: UNA VIDA SOLITARIA

THE WALKING DEAD™

KIRKMAN ADLARD GAUDIANO RATHBURN

SKYBOUND

AT-ZOMBIEFACTORY

AT CÓMICS

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THE WALKING DEAD™

174: UNA VIDA SOLITARIA

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ANTERIORMENTE:

Tras la Guerra con los Susurradores, Rick concedió la libertad a Negan. Sin embargo, Negan debe vivir por su cuenta, lejos de cualquiera de las comunidades establecidas. No todos están de acuerdo con la decisión de Rick...

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EDICIÓN DIGITAL.

¡ESTÁ BIEN, TÚ TE VIENES CONMIGO, SEXY HIJO DE PUTA!

ESCUCHA, GIRASOL--¡ERES JODIDAMENTE ***HERMOSO!*** NO DEJES QUE NADIE TE DIGA LO CONTRARIO.

Y MENOS AÚN ESTA ESTÚPIDA HIERBA HIJA DE PERRA. LA HIERBA NO SABE UNA MIERDA. JÓDETE, HIERBA.

ES QUE COÑO... ***MÍRATE.***

DA LA SENSACIÓN DE QUE TENEMOS ALGUNA MIERDA EN COMÚN, GIRASOL.

¡AMBOS TENEMOS LARGAS Y ***GRUESAS*** RAÍCES!

¿CREES QUE ES UN REGIONALISMO? ¿USAR RAÍZ PARA REFERIRSE A LA POLLA?

AUNQUE PENSÁNDOLO BIEN, ¿QUÉ PALABRA ***NO*** SIRVE PARA POLLA?

VAGINA ES REALMENTE LA ÚNICA PALABRA QUE NO VALE... Y AUN ASÍ, SI LA GENTE LA DIJERA LO SUFICIENTE... ACABARÍA ENCAJANDO.

ME GUSTARÍA EMBUTIR MI VAGINA EN ESA VAGINA.

JE.

GRUH...

TODO EL MUNDO ES UN JODIDO CRÍTICO.

¿SABEN QUÉ...?

USTEDES SÓLO SON **DOS**... Y ESTOY BASTANTE CERCA DE CASA. ¿QUIÉN SABE? PUEDE QUE EN ALGÚN MOMENTO SE COMAN A ALGUIEN QUE PUDIERA MATARME.

¡WHOOM!

¡VIVAN SUS VIDAS!

¿QUIÉN COÑO SOY YO PARA JUZGAR?

SÉ QUE NO TE IBAN MUCHO LAS FLORES CUANDO ESTABAS VIVA... AUNQUE POR OTRO LADO, LA GENTE HA CAMBIADO DESPUÉS DEL FIN DEL MUNDO. TAL VEZ SI HUBIERAS VIVIDO... HABRÍAS LLEGADO A APRECIAR ALGO DE ***BELLEZA*** EN ESTE DESAGRADABLE MUNDO.

ADEMÁS... NO ES QUE HAYA MUCHO QUE HACER HOY EN DÍA.

Y FRANCAMENTE, NO HAY MUCHO QUE PUEDA HACER PARA HONRARTE... Y HACERTE SABER QUE PIENSO EN TI... APARTE DE ESTO.

SIEMPRE ESTOY PENSANDO EN TI, LUCILLE.

QUIERO QUE LO SEPAS.

SÉ QUE CUANDO ALGO MALO LE PASA A ALGUIEN QUE QUIERES SUELE DECIRSE "*OJALÁ ME HUBIERA PASADO A MÍ EN LUGAR DE A ELLA.*"

UNAS VECES LO DICES EN SERIO Y OTRAS NO... PERO HE ESTADO PENSANDO MUCHO EN CUÁNTO DESEARÍA QUE HUBIERA MUERTO YO Y QUE TÚ HUBIERAS VIVIDO.

SEGURAMENTE HABRÍAS HECHO LAS COSAS DE MANERA MUY DIFERENTE A COMO YO LO HICE. SEGURAMENTE HABRÍAS SIDO ***MÁS INTELIGENTE*** CON TODO ELLO...

...SEGURA-MENTE NO HABRÍAS ACABADO ***SOLA.***

NO.

JODER. SOY MÁS FUERTE QUE ESTO.

¿MAÑANA A LA MISMA HORA?

BIEN.

HOGAR, DULCE...

MIERDA.

¡PKOW!

JODER, ME ESTOY **MURIENDO DE HAMBRE,** ¿VALE?

A LA LARGA LOS MUERTOS SE HABRÍAN COMIDO AL CONDENADO.

AÚN ME SIENTO MAL POR LO DEL JODIDO PERRO.

NI SIQUIERA SABÍA BIEN.

¡EL *JODIDO* PREMIO GORDO!

¡QUE LES JODAN, JODIDAS LATAS DE JODIDA COMIDA JODIDAMENTE CADUCADA!

¡PUTA MIERDA, *JODER!*

¡OOOH!

OH, DIOS...

OH, ¿QUÉ CARAJO...? UN SITIO MÁS NO ME HARÁ DAÑO.

NO.

NO.
NO.
NO.

NO.

TÚ NO ERES UN JODIDO BATE DE BÉISBOL. TE ESTOY HABLANDO COMO SI FUERA UN LOCO, PERO TÚ ERES MI DIFUNTA ESPOSA... LUCILLE.

NO EL BATE AL QUE LE PUSE TU NOMBRE.

ESE SÓLO ERA UN PUTO BATE DE BÉISBOL. NO LO AMABA. NO ***DE VERDAD.***

PUEDO REEMPLAZAR EL BATE... ESO NO ES REEMPLAZARTE ***A TI.***

NO LO ES.

¡SOY JOVEN DE NUEVO Y QUIERO *VIVIR!*

¿MM?

VAYA, ¿QUÉ JODIDA PUTA MIERDECILLA TENEMOS AQUÍ?

SÉ QUE SEGURAMENTE AHORA SEA ALGO OPRESIVO Y ESTÉ APRETADO PERO TE ACOSTUMBRARÁS A ELLO, QUERIDA. TIENES MI PUTA ***PALABRA*** DE QUE ASÍ SERÁ.

MUY PRONTO SERÁ COMO UNA SEGUNDA PIEL... TE SENTIRÍAS DESNUDA SIN ELLA, PERO NUNCA ESTARÁS SIN ESTA MIERDA PORQUE ES UNA PUTA PARTE DE TI.

JODER, SÍ, LO ES.

¿YA TIENES PLANES PARA ESO?

¡¿QUÉ CARAJO?!

ESPÉRAME FUERA, DANTE.

¿ESTÁS SEGURA?

SÍ.

SABES QUIÉN SOY, ¿VERDAD?

SÍ.

POR SUPUESTO QUE SÍ.

NO ESTOY ***SENIL.***

BIEN.

ENTONCES SABES POR QUÉ ESTOY AQUÍ.

TENGO UNA IDEA BASTANTE CLARA. EL ARMA COMO QUE ME DA UNA PISTA.

IMAGINO QUE SEGURAMENTE NO ME TIENES EN MUY ALTA ESTIMA. SÉ QUE NO ESTABAS MUY CONTENTA CON QUE RICK ME METIERA EN AQUELLA CELDA.

ESTOY DISPUESTO A APOSTAR QUE LO ESTÁS AÚN ***MENOS*** AL SABER QUE ESTOY AQUÍ FUERA... VAGANDO LIBREMENTE.

PARECES MUY TRANQUILO CON TODO ESTO.

MAGGIE... EN ESTE MUNDO ES UN ***LUJO*** VIVIR EL TIEMPO SUFICIENTE COMO PARA ARREPENTIRTE DE LAS COSAS QUE HAS HECHO...

...TENER UN MOMENTO LO SUFICIENTEMENTE TRANQUILO QUE PERMITA QUE EL RECUERDO DE TUS ACTOS TE ***HORRORICE.***

LAMENTO LO QUE HICE.

NO ME RESISTIRÉ.

...

¡¿CREES QUE NO VEO LO QUE ESTÁS HACIENDO?!

ESTÁS INTENTANDO QUE TE ***COMPADEZCA.*** ¡NO PUEDES INTERPRETAR EL PAPEL DEL HOMBRE RAZONABLE Y ***SOSEGADO*** DESPUÉS DE TODO LO QUE HICISTE!

¡NO VOY A TRAGARME ESA MIERDA!

NO ES UNA ACTUACIÓN.

HE TENIDO ***AÑOS*** PARA PENSAR EN TODO LO QUE HE HECHO. NO SÓLO A TU--

MARIDO.

SE LLAMABA GLENN, ¿VERDAD? SÍ, ASÍ ERA. ESCUCHA, NO ESTOY ORGULLOSO DE LO QUE HICE, PERO LO HICE, CONSCIENTE Y ***VOLUNTARIAMENTE,*** PORQUE DE VERDAD CREÍA QUE ERA LO QUE ***TENÍA*** QUE HACER.

DESPUÉS DE UN TIEMPO, DESPUÉS DE QUE EL ***NERVIOSISMO*** SE DESVANECIERA... DESPUÉS DE QUE ME ACOSTUMBRARA A LAS COSAS QUE HACÍA... DESPUÉS DE QUE TODO EMPEZARA A PARECERME ***NORMAL...*** INCLUSO LO ***DISFRUTABA.***

LO ADMITO.

MURIÓ TANTA GENTE A MI ALREDEDOR, ANTE MIS OJOS, EN LOS PRIMEROS DÍAS... QUE EMPECÉ A VER A TODOS COMO SI VIVIERAN UN ***TIEMPO PRESTADO,*** COMO SI ***YA*** ESTUVIERAN ***MUERTOS...*** TODAVÍA EN PIE Y DEAMBULANDO.

¿MATAR A UNOS POCOS AQUÍ Y ALLÁ PARA ASEGURAR QUE DIEZ O VEINTE PERSONAS QUE CONOCÍA, DE LAS CUALES AL MENOS LA MITAD ME ***GUSTABAN*** DE VERDAD, PUDIERAN VIVIR? UNA ***ELECCIÓN SENCILLA.***

NO FUE HASTA QUE RICK ME MOSTRÓ EL CAMINO... QUE DE VERDAD PODRÍAMOS HACER QUE ESTE MUNDO FUERA MEJOR... QUE PARA SOBREVIVIR NO TENÍAMOS QUE LLEGAR AL FONDO DEL ABISMO DE LO QUE LA HUMANIDAD PODÍA SER...

...QUE EMPECÉ A DARME CUENTA DE LO QUE HABÍA HECHO.

MI LUCILLE ESTABA MUERTA... PRÁCTICAMENTE TODOS AQUELLOS A LOS QUE ALGUIEN AMABA ESTABAN ***PROBABLEMENTE MUERTOS...*** PERO SI GLENN ERA ***TU*** LUCILLE...

BUENO, ESE ES UN DOLOR ***MUY*** FAMILIAR PARA MÍ.

¿PUEDES VER SU CARA?

¿LA DE TU MUJER?

CLARA COMO EL DÍA.

¿PUEDES OÍR SU VOZ?

ESO CREO... PUEDO RECORDAR CONVERSACIONES QUE TUVIMOS, Y YO--

CADA VEZ QUE INTENTO EVOCAR LA CARA DE GLENN, TODO LO QUE PUEDO VER ES A ÉL GRITANDO MI NOMBRE... ¡CON SU CRÁNEO REVENTADO Y SU--SU ***OJO*** COLGANDO!

CUANDO OIGO SU VOZ, ESTÁ GRITANDO MI NOMBRE-- CONFUSO, EN AGONÍA--***ESE ES*** MI RECUERDO DE ÉL.

Y ACTO SEGUIDO... TE VEO ***A TI*** SONRIENDO.

DE ACUERDO ENTON-CES.

DE ACUERDO ENTONCES, ¿QUÉ?

EN-TONCES MÁTAME.

LO MEREZCO. ADELANTE. HAZLO.

NO.

NO VOY A MATAR-TE...

ESO SERÍA SIMETRÍA POÉTICA... DOLOROSO PARA MÍ, PERO LO RESPETO. ENTIENDO DEMASIADO BIEN LO SATISFACTORIO QUE CON TODA SEGURIDAD SERÍA... USA EL BATE SI QUIERES.

HAZLO.

NO PUEDO VIVIR ASÍ. NO PUEDO ESTAR SOLO. NO PUEDO... ESTO ES LO QUE ***MEREZCO.*** APRIETA EL GATILLO, MAGGIE.

¡HAZLO!

POR FAVOR.

IMAGINA LA CARA DE GLENN.

¡¿RECUERDAS ***ESO?!*** ¿RECUERDAS LO QUE HICE? ***¡ESO*** ES LO QUE SOY! ¡ESO ES LO QUE SOY CAPAZ DE HACER!

PODRÍA VOLVER A HACERLO.

QUIERO ESTO.

POR FAVOR.

QUIERO QUE TODO ACABE. ¡ESTOY LISTO PARA QUE ESTO LLEGUE A SU FIN! ***QUIERO*** QUE ME MATES.

¡¿ME MATARÁS DE UNA VEZ, ***POR FAVOR?!***

¡POR FAVOR!

POR FAVOR.

NO.

NO VOY A DARTE LO QUE QUIERES.

PERO...

PERO...

TIENES QUE *VIVIR* CON LO QUE HAS HECHO.

VÁMO-
NOS.

NO LE
HAS...

NO.

ÉL NO
MERECÍA
EL ES-
FUERZO.

¿DEBERÍAMOS
DEJAR QUE
SIMPLEMENTE
LE--?

¡BLAM!
¡BLAM!

¡WHUMP!

UM... EH...

EH...

VÁMONOS A *CASA.*

LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT: WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

Where does Negan go from here? That was my first thought after reading the script for this issue, and you know what? Robert wouldn't give me the answer! Regardless, I hope you enjoyed this issue as much as I did, and hopefully gave you some closure seventy-five issues later.

Hey, look at that, this issue marks seventy-five issues of Negan. Sheesh... I never thought he'd last this long, to be completely honest. He is a somewhat divisive character, but I think after all this time, most people have grown to love to hate him... and maybe even flat out love him. He's certainly a joy to write, and this issue was a great example of that. I hope you guys enjoyed it as much as I did.

_____

Long time reader first time writing in and all that. This email is in response to the letter from Jon F in issue #172, asking how to pronounce Siddiq's name.

It's Sih-ddick (the two Ds are pronounced as dental fricatives, like the 'th' in 'though', and stressed for the double letters).

Phoentic spelling (enPR): sĭththĭk

Also, Siddiq is an Indian name, not an Arab one; Princess was mistaken in #172 (or you were). Either way, not everyone with a beard is an Arab.

Sahith

ALL hipsters AREN'T Arab? Good to know... I was just going to thank you for writing in, but then Robert wrote this rebuttal ... so just leave me out of this one entirely.

Tsk, tsk, Sean. Don't believe every single person who writes in pretending to have authority. Wikipedia tells us:

Siddiq (Arabic: صدیق pronounced ['sˤɪd.di:q]; from the Arabic word meaning "truthful") is an Islamic term and is given as an Honorific title to certain individuals. The feminine gender for Siddiq is Siddiqah. The word is sometimes used as a title given to individuals by Muhammad, according to Islamic sources.

I could be wrong (I'm not), but that pronunciation is "SID DEEK." Also, from a random baby naming website:

The name Siddiq is an Arabic baby name. In Arabic the meaning of the name Siddiq is: Friend. Righteous.

I'm not saying it's not an Indian name AS WELL, but it is Arab and Siddiq is an Arab-American. Try harder next time, Sahith!

_____

Guys...was 172 the gayest issue ever? I think so. I can speak for all Walking Dead gays when I say we loved it. Keep it coming. Please don't kill them immediately.

Casey

Why not! Gayest issue ever... for now.

Ha! I'll take that as a challenge! I think with a little effort we could do an issue that's way gayer!

_____

Dear Mr. Kirkman

Since Rick and the other people found a save haven and began to settle down, the zombies became a managable although still menacing threat (see Andrea). But I asked myself: When somebody dies in his sleep, without the wife or husband (straight or gay) beside noticing it, the danger returns in the middle of the community despite all the walls, ditches and guards. I think it could in the worst case destroy the community and erase all what was achieved. Did the people figure something out to minimize the threat?

I am looking forward to the next issue.

Best,
Sascha Marcec
Wil/Switzerland

I don't think one zombie would be that dangerous were it to suddenly appear inside the walls of Alexandria.

_____

Dear Robert, Sean and company,

I was shocked and very sad after reading Derek's letter on Issue #172. There was so much hate in it. I honestly thought that the readers of TWD were more tolerant, since Jesus and Aaron have been in the comics for so long with us and more recently Magna

and Yumiko have joined the group.

Thanks for giving him an appropriate answer, you could have been even harder, but I honestly think this kind of letter (homophobic, misogynist, racist, etc.) shouldn't even be published on letter hacks, because it is all about hate. And the comic shows how people can still develop their relations and built a society despite all the chaos caused by the walkers. After all, the real world have problems much bigger than zombies.

Sincerely,

Lorena
Brazil

Agreed. We've received a few more in that vein--mostly since THE GAYEST ISSUE EVER!!!!!--and we have no plans of running more because this isn't the platform to express hate. Unless it's for me and Robert. Then hate all you want.

Agreed! And while we're not going to fill this letters column with these letters, I DO feel it's important for us to take a stand on these issues and make our opinions known. How else would you dear readers be certain we don't AGREE with those ideas? I think it's healthy to point out how wrong people are when they want to oppress any other type of person as opposed to celebrating our differences and how they make us better as a whole. I mean, that IS kind of what this book is about. We're stronger together, ALL of us, not just the ones that are like us.

_____

Hey guys,

I know you plan months, sometimes years in advance. I just wondered if you have issue 200 planned out yet? As it's only... 2 and a half years away.

Steven,
London, UK

I'll take the wager that #200 comes out two and half years from now...

Yeah, it's only 27 months away... it's only... 27... months... away. I'm getting old. Hell, we all are. But yes, I know exactly what happens in #200. How else are you going to top issue #100?

_____

Dear Kman,

Already hate the new chick. Wow is she annoying AF. Reminds me of those super happy people that we all know. There's at least one in every persons life. That always upbeat and so happy to see you one. Kill her. Please.

(PS I know it's a sign of good writing when people hate your characters so, good job there I suppose).

Tony from Cleveland
(They're headed to Cleveland, right? Not Colombus?)

We'll even accept hate for Princess... even though you're in the minority, Tony from Cleveland.

Princess is fucking awesome! You'll be seeing so much more of her.

_____

Hey guys,

Massive fan of the comic books and the Telltale Games, excited for the new one from the creators of Payday, if we ever see it. Question, how much control do you have over that game?

We just had a meeting last week with the Starbreeze folks to discuss marketing of the upcoming game. Marketing which should start kicking in soon, say, around the mid-season finale. Our relationship with Starbreeze is very comparable to how we work with Telltale. We review story docs, character models, gameplay... pretty much everything, to make sure it feels true to the comic while providing a great gaming experience.

Also, I know it's been a long time coming, but that's because Starbreeze/Overkill is taking their time to make the game GREAT. We don't want another* Survival Instinct *on our hands! When games are rushed... they're not good!

Also, I stopped reading the comics for a while, as in, like a year and a half. And it's amazing to come back and instantly remember what's happening and who's doing what.

Also in Issue 172, saw a letter from a "not homo-phobic" fan, and I just wanna say Rick's lost Lori 2.0, of course he's gonna be upset, are we to assume that he's just gonna be fine with it and have no emotions about it. It was heart breaking for the fans as well. And as well as other people getting it on whether straight/gay/bi what difference does it make? It's not as if there's a whole issue with Jesus and Aaron just having homosexual sex for each panel. Personally it's nice to see that these people are finding even shreds of happiness in the face of danger.

Keep up the good work, and I really hope you reach the 300 issue mark.

From Bill Murray, UK

Thanks for coming back, Bill. And this

whole issue of gay sex you suggest is very tempting... Maybe that's what we'll do for issue #300.

_____

Hello Mr. Kirkman.

This is my very first time writing to you, so, of course I have my hopes up when it comes to seeing this letter posted in one of your coming issues, but, if that just asking way too much, I'll deal with it with my pillow and a pack of doritos...

Congrats! Your letter is being printed! So lay off the Doritos!

First of all, I'm writing from a already apocalyptic country in the world, Venezuela, and I can't cease to be amazed by the fact that your characters are living way better than us, even with the walkers around. We're living in a TWD world, but only with the Saviors, and the Whisperers, and yeah, a hell of Governor...

Anyway, that's not what I wanted to share with you, but it was great taking it out of my system. The truth is that I'm following your comics almost from the beginning, I have a cousin living in Pasadena, and with his help I've imported your comic to my country, Don't know if that's legal, but, it feels so great when I open that envelop and I smell all the blood, excitement and sadness from the cover. And I'm proud to say that I'm the ONLY person in my hometown to possess almost ALL the current issues of TWD. Sadly, with my country's situation, it's getting harder to me to get your AMAZING comic, but, I will try with my last breath to follow you forever. Now, I have some quite simple questions for you.

1. Why the decision to have Rick and Michonne as a couple in the TV series? Every time I see that, feels like incest to me. I don't know... WHY?

I don't know how that could seem like incest! They are very close platonic friends in the comics, but that could just as easily change one day. Who knows! We felt, and the majority of people agree, that they would make a great couple in the TV show. Seeing those two characters happy together in the show frankly just warms my heart. I'm sorry you don't dig it!

2. Why did Shiva had to die? C'mon it was a Tiger! I would've loved to see Shiva sad after Ezekiel´s kebab...

Well... that was a long time ago (although more recent in the show, show spoilers!). I feel like it was an important turning point in Ezekiel's life that got him through ALL OUT WAR and gave him the opportunity to grow as a character in interesting ways. And also, I hate animals... so there.

3. Can you describe to me, how may the survivors smell like? I mean, I know that's a weird question, but, please just answer me... (Thanks)

They smell terrible, and then they shower, and then they smell okay for a little while until they start to smell terrible again.

and finally...

4. When I first saw the name Juanita, I thought "Really? Juanita, Rosita... What's next" And next, she's Mexican, I know many latin american people reside in the USA, so, why not a Venezuelan? C'mon, we Venezuelans know how to survive ANYTHING! Food and water shortage, we don't need electric power that much either, we are tough as hell! So c'mon, make it happen! A Venezuelan in TWD would make my pain ever easier to carry.

We'll get to work on that right away, Carlos. You make a compelling case.

Thanks for reading! Love you all from the bottom of my oppressed heart!

Carlos Vásquez, Bolívar, Venezuela.

Thanks for writing in.

_____

Hello Robert and Sean,

I`m a great fan of your work and your recommendations, after your words I saw all Romero`s movies and loved them.

I was reading the last letters you published and I remembered a great feeling reading a classical argentinian comic called El Eternauta that shows an alien apocalypsis in Buenos Aires, and how awesome it was to recognize the places we pass through every day, so I can understand the feelings of your readers but.....I`m a little envy that we can`t see own own cities displayed at TWD.

Let's hit pause for a sec: *The Eternaut* was published by Fantagraphics in English for the first time ever two years ago. It's a fascinating apocalyptic invasion comic (drawn by Francisco Solano Lopez) that also doubled as a political critique of the military dictatorship controlling Argentina at the time. Its writer, Hector German Oesterheld, disappeared, presumably by the government; shortly after, his daughters and their husbands were arrested, and never seen again. Highly recommended.

My point is: Is there any possibility of some special issues with small stories of the zombie apocalypse in another countries for

the abroad`s fans? If that`s so I would be grateful if you don't make the stereotypical point of Argentina as a nazi bunker but whatever you decide I`m sure I`ll love it.

It's that time again to recommend you check out BKV and Marcos Martin's TWD: THE ALIEN, available exclusively at panelsyndicate.com. It's the only time TWD has featured the apocalypse occurring in another country.

If you, or someone of your team, decide to travel to "know the feeling" of the location, I`ll be glad to show you better places in Buenos Aires than any travel agency could do...I`m an urban history teacher and fucking cool so mi casa es tu casa.

Gabriela
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Gabriela, I was in Buenos Aires a couple years ago for a comic convention, where they had a huge, immersive *Eternauta* exhibit, which is how I first learned about it. Your city would be a fascinating location to explore in world, but no plans at the current time.

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Hello The Walking Dead team,

I didn't know letter hacks existed until I started reading individual issues and now I am happy to say I have found a way to contact Robert Kirkman and the rest of the team (I am so sorry guys I am terrible with names).

Anyway, I would like to make a comment from the most recent issue (#171)
I am desperate to meet Stephanie (that's my name!!) but a particular scene caught my attention (drumroll please):

I am quite impressed with the interaction between Carl and Sofia. Sofia is a great female character! When Carl started apologizing and saying that he couldn't talk to Sofia because he was technically in a relationship, I frowned at such common statement but rejoiced when Sofia confidently say that she wants to talk, be his friend, not his "girlfriend."

It made me feel better. A lot of people frown upon talking to your "exes" (I consider Carl and Sofia exes in the sense that they stopped being friends for a period of time) or talking to people who are in romantic relationships, but there's nothing wrong with it! We are people, human beings, and we need friends. Thank you. It just emphasized the importance of friendship regardless of one's relationship status.

I have been enjoying the comics a lot: it shows the raw human nature and the extent of one's willingness to stay alive. I bet you hear it thousands of times but The Walking Dead is indeed amazingly good.

Best regards,
Stephanie (not the one from Ohio)

I like Carl and Sophia as friends as well, but I have a sneaking suspicion that there's more to come with that storyline.

You never know...

_____

Okay okay okay, I guess I can say this new cover image (for issue # 175) has me excited. And the mass-produced armor thing makes sense and shouldn't necessarily imply they are Storm Troopers, as what was originally what came to mind upon first glance. Though I wonder what the reasoning was behind using what appears to be 3 human clones for the cover, as their eyes and expression appear to be exact copies. What's up with that? Did someone actually raise a clone army? Or are we just looking at triplets? hahaha..... But seriously, after many years since the Turn, I suppose someone would eventually develop a standardized protocol for dealing with the undead and protecting themselves. Sure, Rick got pretty far as establishing a network of colonies and raising a rag-tag army, but whoever is in charge of these armored troopers must be one organized individual, probably former military. What is he or she like? Is that person loved or feared by their people? Both? What was their story from the Turn until now? Are they good people? Do they force an ultimatum to whomever they come across to assimilate or die? Lots of questions! Mr. Kirkman, you always leave me guessing!

Y'all keep up the good work!

John Bailey
Spokane, WA

What a way to save me time for teasing next issue by just running this as the final letter for this month's Hacks! Solid work, John!

Nicely done, Sean.

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Get ready for BIG THINGS in January, when the six-part "New World Order" storyline starts! Happy holidays! Happy new year! Got to get those out of the way because once #175 hits, we'll have a WHOLE LOT more to talk about!

-Sean Mackiewicz

Yeah, it's a very exciting time to be reading THE WALKING DEAD. There's a whole lot of cool, new, crazy stuff on the horizon, so stay tuned!!

-Robert Kirkman

THE WALKING DEAD

AT-ZOMBIEFACTORY